



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS
600 WASHINGTON STREET, 7TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02111

James J. Campbell
Commissioner

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 270

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

FROM: JAMES J. CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONER

RE: 1) Utilization review and quality assessment regulations regarding the provision of adequate and reasonable health care services,
2) Promulgation of amended and new treatment guidelines for appropriate and necessary treatment based on diagnosis of injuries and illness,
3) Review criteria to be applied to the guidelines,
4) Clinical information form, and
5) Application for approval of utilization review programs

DATE: July 1, 1993

Newly amended treatment guidelines relating to appropriate and necessary treatment based on diagnosis of injuries and illness for use by health care providers in the treatment of injuries and illnesses under M.G.L. c. 152 - published in original form on July 1, 1992, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 152, §13, as most recently amended by St. 1991, c. 398, §34, endorsed and amended in January 1993 and referenced in Circular Letter No. 268, as well as new treatment guidelines have been endorsed by the Health Care Services Board and adopted by the Commissioner of the Department of Industrial Accidents. For each treatment guideline, the Department has also created and developed utilization review criteria to be applied to the guidelines.

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 152, §30, as most recently amended by St. 1991, c. 398, §53, utilization review and quality assessment regulations relating to the provisions of adequate and reasonable health care services were promulgated on June 18, 1993, effective July 1, 1993. Utilization review programs shall integrate the treatment guidelines and apply the review criteria. Pursuant to the regulations, all utilization review programs must be approved by the Department, on an application form prescribed by the Department, prior to undertaking utilization review for any and all health care services rendered on or after October 1, 1993.

Copies of the treatment guidelines, the review criteria, the regulations, and the application for approval of utilization review programs, as well as any and all further amendments and additions to these guidelines and review criteria are available through the Department's Office of Health Policy, extension 438.

In addition, on or before October 1, 1993, the Department will have available the following: a comprehensive utilization review manual containing all of the above as well as related materials, and a clinical information form for each treatment guideline and review criteria. The form has been developed to be used by providers and utilization review agents to facilitate utilization review and payment to providers. Use of the form is not mandatory, and not in lieu of other reporting requirements, but is strongly recommended.